

Existing law provides that the Natchitoches Historic District Development Commission shall be composed of the following 15 members: the respective chairmen of the Historic Business Association, the Natchitoches Historic District Commission, and the National Heritage Area Commission District; and the following officials or their designees: the mayor of the city of Natchitoches, the chairman of the Natchitoches Chamber of Commerce, the chairman of the Natchitoches Tourist Commission, the state senator from District 31, the state representative from District 23, the president of the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury, the president of Northwestern State University, the chairman of the Association for the Preservation of Historic Natchitoches, the chairman of the Natchitoches Historic Foundation, Inc., the chairman of the Cane River Waterway Commission, the chairman of Museum Contents, Inc., and the president of the Natchitoches Parish Voters and Civic League.

New law increases the membership of the commission to 16 by adding the chairman of the Main Street Association or his designee.

Existing law authorizes the commission to:

- (1) Receive grants, donations, funds, or other resources from any source, including proceeds from the sale of services.
- (2) Acquire property and hold and use any franchise or property or any interest therein, necessary or desirable for carrying out the purposes of the commission.
- (3) Issue bonds for purposes authorized which may be payable from any of the commission's resources including a pledge and dedication of the amounts of tax proceeds in the Natchitoches Historic District Development Fund.
- (4) Enter into contracts including those for purchase, construction, and improvement of works and facilities necessary in connection with the planning and development of the district.
- (5) Sell or lease property owned by it when such property is no longer needed for public purposes.
- (6) Appoint agents or employees, prescribe their duties, and fix their compensation.
- (7) Adopt such rules for the transaction of its business as it deems necessary.
- (8) Adopt, use, and alter at will a corporate seal.

New law retains existing law and authorizes the commission to provide matching grants for the restoration or improvement of private properties located in the district when determined to be consistent with the master plan for the district.

Effective upon signature of governor (July 9, 1999).

(Amends R.S. 25:791(F); Adds R.S. 25:791(D)(a))